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The Influence of India and Persia on the Poetry of Germany,
by A. F. J. Remy, Ph. D. Columbia University Germanic
Studies. Volume I. No. IV. New York : The Columbia
University Press, 1901.

Dr. Remy comes to his study of the influence of India and Persia with an excellent preparation upon the side of the Oriental languages with which he has to deal, and a native ability in German of no mean order. This book shows great care, and a marvelously wide bibliographical knowledge of the field. In the main the dissertation is a historical outline of the Oriental movement from its beginning, through Herder who, says Dr. Remy, failed because he laid too much stress upon the didactic side. After him the development goes through von Hammer to whom is due the impulse which started the so-called Hafidian movement ; this comes out most strongly in the poetry of Rückert and Platen. The chapter on Rückert is particularly careful and suggestive, and indeed the main merit of Dr. Remy's book lies in its suggestiveness. In a way, it is rather a skeleton, but at the same time, any one of a number of phases of the dissertation might in itself be expanded into a book, and it is to be hoped that some day the author will amplify the work which he has begun.

Dr. Remy's data can only lead us to the belief that the Oriental influence on Germany seems to have been mainly a matter of surface things, of poetic ideas, and of forms, rather than of deep-seated operation upon the thought and culture of the poets, and through them upon the people of the land. The influence comes in as mediating, as auxiliary to an ideal "world-literature," but not in itself working upon the minds, or really upon the imaginations of the poets. Their fancy it certainly did touch. But even where it aroused the fancy, it does not strike further in below form, which in Persian poetry is so important an element, and with which those German poets who draw from the east, had so much to do. Where it penetrates still deeper into the image and its significance, as in Heine, it was not the eminent meaning of the east which was absorbed. Iran, as the home of the Rose and the Nightingale, of wine and of the tavern, of the moon and of the cup-bearer, of the Orient as a refuge from the hurly-burly of the Occident, for

Rückert goes as far as this, all these are the emphatic points. But the east as the land of desire and mystery, where the mental phenomena take precedence over the physical, the east as the home of the philosopher, and with this the strict application of philosophy to the ideal of daily life, these things found no exemplification. Nay more, they were even neglected. And so we can hardly help feeling that it was after all Herder who saw the true trend that the movement should take, and that what Dr. Remy refers to as his didacticum was really the germ of the right idea. The later poets went astray on matters of minor moment and we are forced to conclude that the time has not yet come when the ideas of India and Persia have really become current. It is still a matter of beginnings. But this surely can be said: the imagery of the Orient has been taken up into German poetry and that fully, even if its great philosophy has been neglected, and the sources of his imagery Dr. Remy has conclusively shown. His citations and parallels are always apt; he has escaped the tendency so often noticeable, of making one word the basis for a supposed influence. His criticisms, moreover, are always sane and just, especially in the chapters of Platen and Bodenstedt, and if, of course, he has been able to add but little new material on Goethe, he has at least brought out, here as well as in the chapter on Heine, many interesting points. The whole work is suggestive and scholarly, and the author's style is remarkable, for one to whom English is not a native idiom.

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The English Dialect Grammar, comprising the Dialects of England, of the Shetland and Orkney Islands, and of those Parts of Scotland, Ireland and Wales where English is habitually spoken, by Joseph Wright, London, Oxford, 1905.

In this Grammar, which is the latest fruits of Professor Wright's extensive studies in English dialects, the characteristic features of all English dialects are presented, the aim having been 'to furnish philologists and others interested in the subject with a concise and